

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Inventorying and Testing Fact Sheet

- ➔ **Federal government has estimated hundreds of thousands of untested, un-submitted sexual assault kits (SAKs)**
- ➔ **Speculation why this backlog exists -**
 - 1. Spanning from lack of funding to case prioritization**
 - 2. Previously instructed to retain because of no known suspects**
- ➔ **Moving forward funding is focused on testing and prevention**



Why is this important?

With the National DNA CODIS database other states are finding DNA matches and identifying serial rapists.

- **This not a punitive action and we are requesting no sexual assault kits be destroyed.**

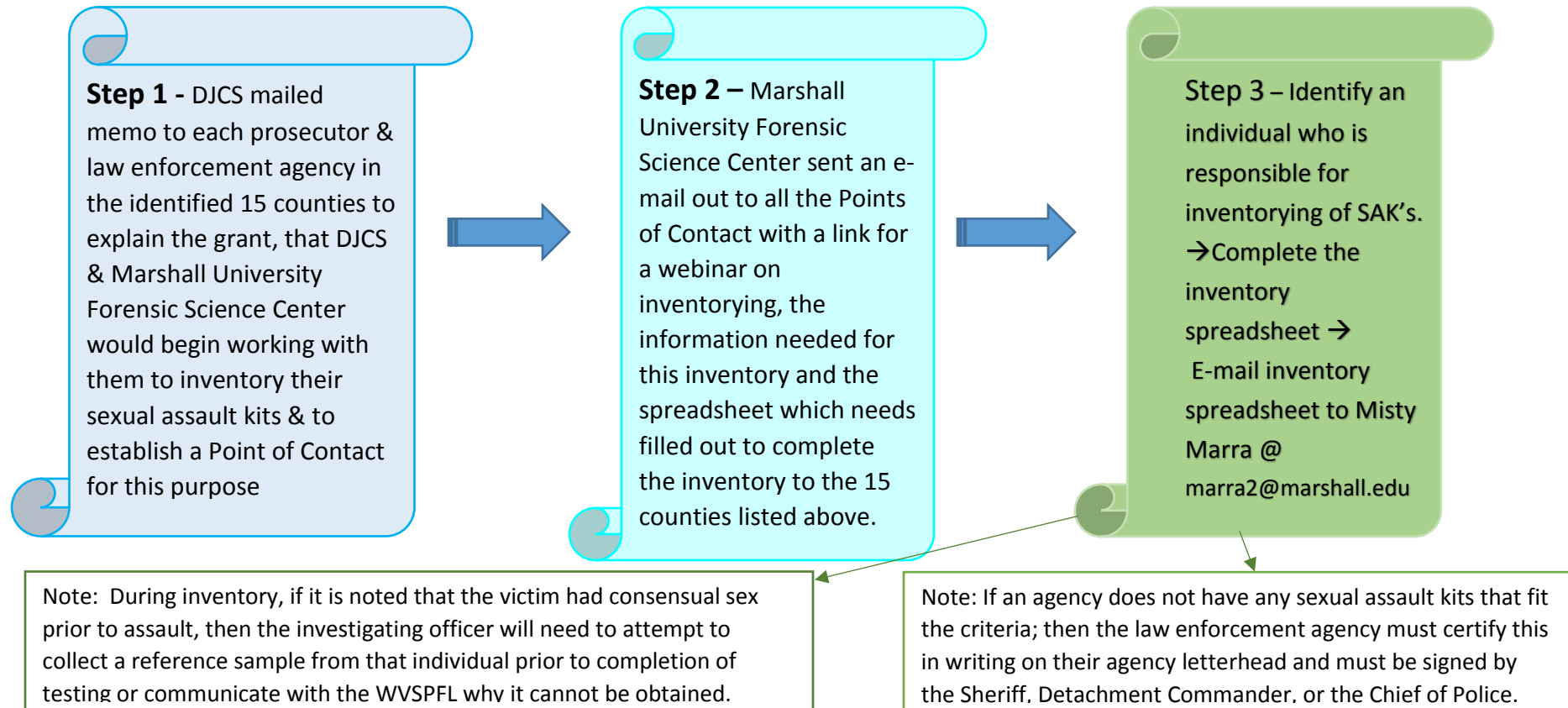
WHO? The West Virginia Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (WVSAKI) is a collaborative project of the WV Division of Justice and Community Services, the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services, the WV State Police Forensic Lab, the WV Prosecuting Attorneys Institute, and Marshall University Forensic Science Center.

WHAT? WVSAKI is part of a national initiative to create a coordinated community response to ensure a just and victim-centered response to sexual assault cases that includes the processing and testing of all sexual assault/rape kits – both submitted and previously unsubmitted. Jurisdictions in this project are now finding resolutions in some of these cases through matches in CODIS (the national DNA data bank). Training and additional funds are available to assist jurisdictions in the investigation of these cold cases.

WHERE? Initially the project will focus on the following counties: Berkeley, Brooke, Fayette, Greenbrier, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Marion, Mason, Mercer, Ohio, Raleigh, Randolph, Upshur and Wood counties.

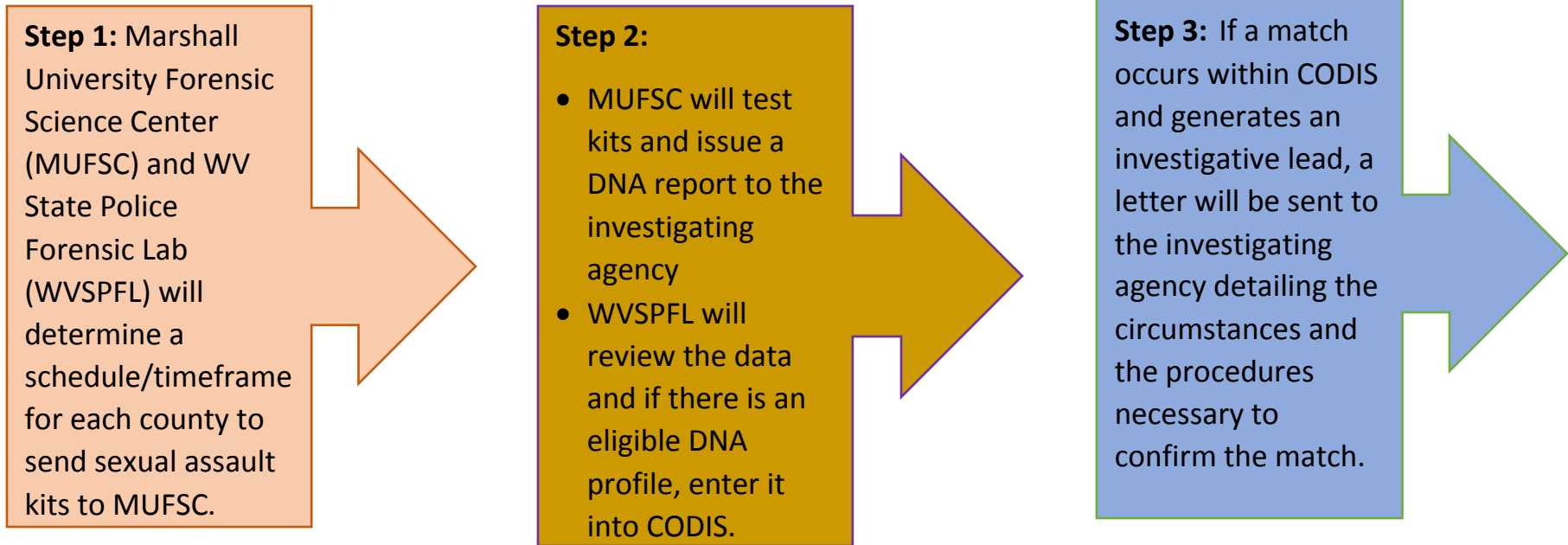
WHEN? Inventorying in each of the above counties should be happening now! Questions??? Contact Misty Marra at (304) 691-8952 or by e-mail at marra2@marshall.edu or contact Sarah Brown at (304) 558-8814, extension 53337.

Inventorying:



Prosecutor's Role	Help to communicate with Law Enforcement agencies - not a punitive action and the importance of inventorying and testing kits and if DNA is found to input in CODIS
Law Enforcement's Role	Inventorying kits and submitting spreadsheet to MUFSC
Advocate's Role	Help to communicate with Prosecutor's & Law Enforcement agencies - not a punitive action and the importance of inventorying and testing kits and if DNA is found to input in CODIS – and if needed communicate with victim.

Testing:



Prosecutor's Role	If there is a match- prosecuting a case
Law Enforcement's Role	Investigating and confirming DNA matches
Advocate's Role	Victim notification and support